

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

**Proposing rule making related to adding three counties to the bobcat harvest zone
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)“a,” 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.87.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 481A.87.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping fur-bearing animals. This rule making proposes to add Delaware, Dubuque, and Jones Counties to the one bobcat per fur harvester zone. Data from the past 12 years reveal that Iowa’s bobcat population continues to grow and expand into more counties that provide suitable habitats. Information about the bobcat population has been compiled from a variety of sources, such as hunter surveys, harvest information, field reports, and sightings. This proposed rule change is biologically responsible, as required by law, and will increase recreational opportunities for Iowa fur harvesters while helping minimize social issues associated with high bobcat densities.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) anticipates a very modest increase in fur harvester license sales from the proposed rule. Currently, resident fur harvester licenses, with the wildlife habitat fee, are \$41 per year. If any additional fur harvester licenses are sold as a result of the newly opened counties, revenue would be generated for the State Fish and Game Protection Fund. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. A copy of the jobs impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

Waivers

This rule is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 30, 2021. Comments should be directed to:

Vince Eversizer
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
1203 North Shore Drive
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428
Email: vince.eversizer@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally will be held via conference call as follows. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Chris Ensminger, Wildlife Research Supervisor, by email at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Mr. Ensminger prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

March 30, 2021
12 noon to 1 p.m.

Video/conference call

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing will be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making actions are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 108.7(2) as follows:

108.7(2) Open area. River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Cherokee, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and Woodbury.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **108.7(3)“b”** as follows:

b. The seasonal bag limit for bobcats is 1 bobcat per person in the following counties: Audubon, Boone, Cedar, Cherokee, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Guthrie, Harrison, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lyon, Monona, Muscatine, Plymouth, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Webster, and Woodbury.